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Loanwords and their derivational activity in Karachay-Balkar

Abstract

The homeland of the Karachay-Balkar speakers is the Northern Caucasus. During the course of history the ancestors of contemporary Karachays and Balkars had contacts with various peoples and their languages such as Arabic, Iranian languages (including Persian and Ossetian), Turkic languages (including Turkish), Kabardian and Russian.

This paper examines the role of the loan words in the morphological system of Karachay-Balkar. It analyses the main suffixes that can be added to the stems of foreign origin in order to form different derivatives. The abundance of such suffixes and their productivity enables Karachay-Balkar to absorb the loan words and at the same time retain the Turkic character of the language.

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The Karachay-Balkar is one of the Turkic languages upon which many other languages have had an active influence.

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Since the nineteenth century, when the Caucasus was incorporated into Russia, a large number of Russian loan words entered the Karachay-Balkar language. The activity of Russian lexical elements in Karachay-Balkar is noticeable and manifested in various ways. Together with Russian loan words so called "international" words also entered Karachay-Balkar and their number has inevitably grown.

The purpose of this paper is to present how Russian and "international" elements are active in Karachay-Balkar word formation and on the other hand, how native elements

are actively involved in the process of word formation from the foreign bases. By those native elements we understand suffixes of native origin i.e. Turkic as when considering the agglutinative character of Karachay-Balkar only suffixes are involved in the process of word formation.

To show the scale of the formative activity where the mentioned elements are involved we present both nominal and verbal derivations.

The Karachay-Balkar derivation, with the existence of Russian and "international" lexemes as formative bases comprises several grammatical categories. Thus, in this process from the mentioned bases the following groups of words appear: nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs. In the Karachay-Balkar language the process of both nominal and verbal derivation involves quite a large number of suffixes (Bask. GKBJ pp. 121–125, 138–142, 154–155, 196–198).

Thus, the following suffixes are used for:

I. The substantival derivation:

1) from nominal bases: *-ča*, *-či*, *čik*, *-daš*, *-lik*, *-li*.

2) from verbal bases: *-č*, *-či*, *-čak*, *-ga*, *-gič*, *-li/ü*, *-i/ü/k*, *-iš/-uš*, *-ma*, *-mak*.

II. The adjectival derivation:

1) from nominal bases: *-či*, *-li*, *-lik*, *-gi*, *-i*, *-siz*;

2) from verbal bases: *-č*, *-čak*, *-gak*, *-gič*, *-gür*, *-i*, *-ik*, *-ma*, *-mak*, *-š*.

III. The adverbial derivation: suffix *-ča*.

IV. The verbal derivation: the suffixes: *-a*, *-aj*, *-al*, *-ar*, *-ik*, *-la*, *-si*, *-sin*.

Since the activity of suffixes is various, some of them are very productive, some others rather rare. The analysis of the lexical material collected from modern sources shows that a limited number of suffixes are involved in the derivation from Russian and "international" lexemes as formative bases.

Thus, the following suffixes form nouns from foreign bases: *-li/ü*, *-či*, *-čik*, *-li*, *-lik*.

Among the presented suffixes the *-lik* suffix is the most productive. Its productivity is very high in most of the Turkic languages. Its function refers to forming substantival derivatives denoting: the names of abstracts, the names of physical human conditions, the names of human features, the names of duties, professions, dignities and the names of various utensils etc. (Bask. GKBJ pp. 121–122). It also forms derivatives denoting "amount of material used for doing sth" (Chab. ISKJ p. 137). Below, there are several examples of derivatives with this suffix:

banditlik 'banditism' < *bandit* 'bandit';

bankrotluk 'bankruptcy' < *bankrot* 'bankrupt';

bluzkalik 'amount of material for sewing the shirt' < *bluzka* 'shirt';

direktorluk 'the function of a director' < *direktor* 'director';

redaktorluk 'editorship, editing' < *redaktor* 'editor';

vračlik 'the function of a doctor' < *vrač* 'doctor'.

Another suffix involved in the process of derivation from the foreign bases is the suffix *-li*. It has a double function. It forms both nouns and adjectives (Bask. GKBJ p. 123). Its adjective forming function is more frequent and evident. It will be presented separately.

As for the nouns its function is reserved only for forming derivatives denoting names of inhabitants, e.g.: *vengerli* 'Hungarian' or *vengriyalı* 'Hungarian', *amerikanlı* 'American', *ispanlı* 'Spaniard'.

The next is the suffix *-çi*. Generally, it forms derivatives denoting persons representing some duties, functions, professions (Bask. GKBJ p. 122), e.g.:

- astronomijaçı* 'astronomer' < *astronomija* 'astronomy';
- avantiüräçi* '1. wrangler. 2. adventurer' < *avantiürä* '1. wrangle. 2. adventure';
- boksçu* 'boxer' < *boks* 'boxing';
- fabrikaçı* 'factory owner' < *fabrika* 'factory';
- memuarçı* 'memoirist' < *memuar* 'memoirs'.
- revolucijaçı* 'revolutionist' < *revolucija* 'revolution'.

In Karachay-Balkar this suffix doubles the function of the *-lı* suffix, which forms substantives denoting names of inhabitants (Bask. GKBJ p. 123), e. g.: *brazilijaçı* 'inhabitant of Brasil'; cf.: *brazillı* 'id'; *egipetçi* 'inhabitant of Egypt'; cf.: *egipetli* 'id'; *ispanijaçı* 'inhabitant of Spain'; cf.: *ispanlı* 'id'.

Another suffix, forming derivatives from the foreign bases is the suffix *-čik*. Its function refers to the process of forming diminutives (Bask. GKBJ p. 123). This is a quite productive formative. Here are some examples:

- lampačik* 'a small lamp' < *lampa* 'lamp';
- trusčuk* 'knickers' < *trusy* 'knickers';
- vannačik* 'a small bath-tub' < *vanna* 'bath-tub'.

The last one among this group of suffixes is the suffix *-lı/ü* forming from verbal bases substantives denoting names of action (Bask. GKBJ p. 124). Examples:

- avtomatlay* 'automatization' < *avtomatla-* < *avtomatlarga* 'to automatize';
- demonstracijalay* 'demonstration' < *demonstracijala-* < *demonstracijalarga* 'to demonstrate';
- okkupacijalay* 'occupation' < *okkupacijala-* < *okkupacijalarga* 'to occupy'.

Some of the derivatives with the suffix *-lı/ü* represent compounds. They are derived from compound verbs. In such cases the suffix is added to the last element of the compound verb, e. g.:

- kollektivizacija bardiriü* 'collectivisation' < *kollektivizacija bardiri-* < *kollektivizacija bar-diriŋa* 'collectivize';
- koncentracija etiü* 'concentration' < *koncentracija et-* < *koncentracija eterge* 'concentrate'.

In respect to derivation from Russian and "international" words the group of suffixes forming adjectives is represented by two suffixes, that is: the suffix *-lı* and the suffix *-sız*. They are also very productive not only in Karachay-Balkar but also among other Turkic languages. Their function is to denote feature in case of the suffix *-lı*, and to show lack of such feature in case of the suffix *-sız*. (Bask. GKBJ pp. 138-139). Examples:

The suffix *-lı*:

- absolutlu* 'absolute' < *absolut* 'the absolute';
- diskussijalı* 'controversial' < *diskussija* 'discussion';
- kalibrli* 'having a certain calibre' < *kalibr* 'calibre';

The suffix *-siz*:

- ideasiz* 'without the ideals' < *idea* 'ideals';
- kalorijasiz* 'caloryless' < *kalorija* 'calory';
- kvalifikacijasiz* 'without qualification' < *kvalifikacija* 'qualification';
- magnitsiz* 'demagnetized' < *magnit* 'magnet';
- udarenijesiz* 'without the accent' < *udarenije* 'accent'.

Besides the categories mentioned above adverbs are also formed from loan words of Russian and "international" origin. The most productive adverbial suffix is *-ča* (Bask. GKBJ p. 154). It is added to substantival bases, e.g.:

- avtomatča* 'automatically' < *avtomat* 'automatic';
- danijača* 'in Danish language' < *Danija* 'Denmark';
- jakutča* 'in Yakut language' < *jakut* 'Yakut';
- studentča* 'in students' manner' < *student* 'id';
- švedča* 'in Swedish language' < *šved* 'Swedish'.

The verbs are the category that can also be derived from foreign words of Russian and international origin. There are two methods of derivation for this category: morphological and syntactical. The morphological method uses two suffixal elements to form verb in its infinitive form. First, to the nominal bases constituted by the foreign element the suffix *-la(n)*, or *-le(n)* is added. By means of this, the verbal bases are formed. From such bases some forms expressing the categories of mood and voice are also formed. It should noted, that in Karachay-Balkar the group of formative elements used to form verbal bases is quite numerous. However, only these two suffixes (*-la(n)*, *-le(n)*) mentioned above are used to make verbal bases from foreign words (Bask. GKBJ p. 196). Then, to the verbal bases the infinitive suffixes *-(a)rğa* or *-(e)rge* or *-(i)rge* are attached (Bask. GKBJ pp. 214-215).

Here there are several examples that illustrate the morphological method of forming verbs:

- aktivlenirge* 'to activate' < *aktiv* 'active' + *-len* + *irge*;
- demobilizacijalarga* 'to demobilize' < *demobilizacija* 'demobilization' + *-la* + *-rga*;
- duxlarga* 'to scent sb' < *dux* 'perfume' + *-la* + *-rga*;
- magnetlenirge* 'to magnetize' < *magnet* 'id' + *-len* + *-irge*;
- okkupacijalarga* 'to occupy' < *okkupacija* 'occupation' + *-la* + *-rga*.

In the second method the compounds are formed from two elements. The first one represents, in most cases, substantives, whereas the second one can be chosen among several infinitives such as: *eterge* 'to do', *berirge* 'to give', *barirga* 'to go', etc.

Examples:

- fokus eterge* 'to focus';
- inventarizacija eterge* 'to list, to catalogue';
- kollektivizacija bardirirga* 'collectivize';
- kommentarij berirge* 'to comment'.

When analyzing the derivatives formed from foreign bases we come to several conclusions. First of all, it is noticeable that Russian and international words (mostly nominal forms) constitute very active formative bases in the process of derivation.

Secondly, in this process the words representing various categories are formed, both nominal and verbal. As for substantives, the derivation from foreign bases comprises both *nomina propria* and *appellativa*, e.g.: *egipetči*, *danijači* and *boksču*, *memuarči*, etc.

As for the formative suffixes it is worth mentioning that some suffixes are very productive i.e. *-či*, *-lik*. This productivity manifests itself in the existence of two paralleling words, where one is a loan word borrowed from a foreign language in unchanged form and the other paralleling word is an existing word with a derived made from the basis common to both words but with the use of a native suffix. Examples:

akkordeonist = *akordeonču*;

aptekar = *aptekači*;

arbitraž = *arbitrlik*;

banditizm = *banditlik*;

boksör = *boksču*;

karerist = *karerači*;

markist = *marksči*.

At the same time we have to pay attention to the great productivity of several other formative suffixes such as: *-i/y*, *-či*, *-la(n)*, *-li*, *-lik*, *-siz*.

Most of those suffixes are also known in other Turkic languages where some of them are also very productive.

The morphological analysis shows, that in some cases, to the foreign bases compound suffixes are added. In other words, there are some derivatives where more than one suffix is involved in the process of their derivation. Examples:

avtoritetsizlik 'lack of the authority, respect' < *avtoritet* + *-siz* + *-lik*;

argumentley 'argumentation' < *argument* + *-le* + *-y*;

demokratizacijalandırıy 'the process of democratization' < *demokratizacija* + *-lan* + *-dir* + *-iy*;

ideasızlık 'lack of ideals' < *idea* + *-siz* + *-lik*.

The last but not least conclusion is of a rather general character. We can say that it is amazing just how vivid and active is the Turkic nature of the Karachay-Balkar language in that native suffixes (i.e. Turkic) form new derivatives even from foreign elements that is: Russian and international.

Abbreviations

Bask. GKBJ = Baskakov, N.A. (Red.): *Grammatika karačajevo-balkarskogo jazyka. Fonetika, morfologija, sintaksis*, Načik 1976.

Chab. ISKJ = Chabičev, M.A.: *Imennoje slovoobrazovanie i formoobrazovanie v kumanskich jazykach*, Moskva 1989.

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